



GENERAL RELIEF & CAPI PROGRAMS SECTION NEWSLETTER

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

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Pilot At The Compton Court House**

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Public Defender Pilot At The Compton Court Building

The Department of Public Social Services (DPSS)-Public Defender (PD) SSIMAP Services Pilot was implemented as part of the comprehensive plan to restructure the General Relief (GR) Program. The PD Pilot was implemented in August 2011 for one year and has since been extended for another year. The pilot is staffed by one PD Psychiatric Social Worker II (PSW II) and one DPSS SSIMAP Advocate which are both co-located at the Public Defender's Compton Office.

The PSW II is responsible for identifying severely disabled PD clients who are on GR and may potentially be eligible for Social Security Income (SSI), completing a mental health disability assessment where appropriate, gathering medical and mental health records from entities other than the Department of Mental Health, Department of Health Services and the Sheriff's Department and recommending to the court any additional psychiatric evaluations to support the SSI claim. The PSW II will gather pertinent information and refer the client to the DPSS SSIMAP Advocate for advocacy services.

The following is an actual success story reported by the Public Defender Pilot staff. In April 2012, Mr. A was referred to the PSW II by a Compton Felony Public Defender. After conducting a LEADER screening, it was discovered that there were different "temporary" disabilities listed continuously over the past three years with no referral to an SSI Advocate. In the course of the application process with Mr. A, pilot staff realized that he had a great amount of difficulty understanding the most basic questions. Even though he is 19 years old, he has never driven, he is unable to take public transportation, and he is mentally disabled. Mr. A's Public Defender was very helpful in providing some strong evidence to support an SSI claim. Included in this paperwork was evidence that Mr. A, has an IQ of 54 and can only read at a first grade level which were cognitive deficits not previously noted. This additional information and psychological reports made for a much stronger case. Mr. A has since been approved for SSI and was recently accepted as a consumer at the Regional Center due to his severe developmental capacities.

- Congratulations to the DPSS/PD Pilot Staff!!

GENERAL RELIEF APPLICANTS UNDER 21 ARE ELIGIBLE TO MEDI-CAL

This is to remind staff that applicants under age 21 are eligible to Medi-Cal. Therefore, whenever an individual under the age of 21 is applying for GR assistance aid, staff is encouraged to refer them to apply for Medi-Cal benefits as well. Many times, these applicants do not realize that they are eligible to receive Medi-Cal and subsequently go without receiving needed healthcare simply because they are unaware. Under the Medi-Cal program, any child under the age of 21 is automatically linked to receive Medi-Cal benefits. Applications filed by a minor will be accepted and evaluated for full scope benefits, as long as they are not under the care and control of:

- Their parent;
- A Foster Care Agency; or
- Probation.

If it is determined that the minor is under the care of any of the above, then that person/agency would be required to apply on the minor's behalf.

Note: Children eligible to Foster Care automatically receive Medi-Cal benefits through the program until age 18.

CalFresh Expedited Services For General Relief Cases

Every CalFresh applicant must be informed of the right to Expedited Services (ES). When adding a CalFresh segment to an existing General Relief case, Eligibility Worker is required to review the CalFresh application for potential ES eligibility. If the household does not meet the criteria for CalFresh ES, please document the LEADER Case Comments screen as follows: "The applicant was evaluated for ES but did not meet the criteria for CalFresh ES." (MPP 63-301.52)

If you have you have success stories of participants who received services from the Enterprise Linkages Program and the Housing Subsidy Program. Please send your stories to the GR & CAPI Programs Section.

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